

Small Group Discussion Questions Lexington County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- SIC Survey=parent involvement
- SIC's imbedding goals in plans
- EEDA Clusters = relevance!
- SCHSL rules better engage students, better academic success.
- Senior Project Community Service.
- More business engagement (MEBA, mentors)
- Alternative programs/ systems
- Thinking Outside the Box.
- Community Roundtable
- Financial Commitment from the community.
- Shared facilities
- Additional resources
- Town meeting
- Fostering understanding of school safety issues as community issue.
- Teacher Recruitment Fair
- Community Coalition
- Parent volunteers and mentors
- Parenting center/parent educators
- School improvement councils
- Prayer walking schools
- Church-school partnerships (adopt-a-school)
- HUB, KEYS (after school tutoring)
- Strong school-business partnership
- Lexington 1 Technology Center
- Lexington County Support of Facilities
- Reading Buddies
- After school programs
- Middle college
- First Steps and other parenting programs
- Mentoring programs
- Technology advanced training
- Leadership academy
- Facilities
- Paying staff development
- Accurate adaptive diagnostic testing with prescriptive measures
- Expansion of cluster programs
- Course/credit recovery

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Time – educators, parents
- Complacency- problems around state
- General assembly-fully funded educators
- Government voucher support
- Property tax reform
- Language, literacy, of parents
- Growth-can't keep up facilities, teacher shortage
- Negative peers, influence, gangs, drugs
- Lack of parent involvement.
- Lack of discipline in classroom, time consuming
- Regulations (State/Federal)
- Funds
- Community attitude "lack of interest"
- Family commitment
- Lack of participation/ presence
- Cultural influences
- Lack of accountability
- Shortage of highly qualified teachers.
- Rapid growth
- IDEA 04 implementation
- Discipline – consistency to be constantly addressed
- Information distribution to support total child
- Vocal: "No New Taxes"
- Needs of non-college bound students.
- School Readiness
- Culture Barriers (socio-economic)
- Governor
- Time
- Lack of fiscal autonomy
- Poverty
- Communication among stake holders
- Sell public education
- Children having children
- Driver / diploma correlation

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- At risk students intervention
- Parent involvement strategies, collaboration with all groups in community.
- Mentor programs
- Plan for future facilities, staffing, and budgets.
- Address social problems as community
- Common Ground at the top of Government leadership
- Make teachers important
- Employ empowerment in leaders
- Increase involvement-faith based community in schools
- Combination of group community involvement (business, educators)
- Ensure equitable financial resources across the state.
- Work to open new lines of communication with parents and business industry. (Back to school Bash, Blitz, free school supplies)
- Increase teacher pay
- Build facilities to address rapid growth
- Stay current with technology.
- Maintain high expectations
- Support funding for education
- Support equity in funding
- Employer flexibility for parent involvement
- Time for teacher home visits
- Home economics/life skills in middle schools
- Strengthen arts in schools
- Promote family involvement
- Educate, promote, and foster the need of common ground
- Need for early education for all children
- Reading programs – more dynamic
- Sell public education
- Pray for public education
- Self improvement
- Become more politically active!!

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Participate in meetings
- Encourage other parents to be more active in schools
- Business managers foster parent involvement
- Tell younger parents how to get thru the information maze.
- Advocate for the positive results
- Attend SCSIC meetings
- Encourage churches to support education.

